

Utility News

www.gardnerkansas.gov

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Update on the Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City of Gardner is currently working on construction of a 5.7 million gallon per day (MGD) lift station at the existing Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lift station will pump wastewater from the Bull Creek site to the Kill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located near 159th St. and Kill Creek Road. Construction began in early 2007 and should be completed by 2008. Once the lift station is constructed, the Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (which was built in the 1950's) will be demolished and all treatment will be done at the Kill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Don't Miss the Festival on the Trails!

The weekend of September 14-15, 2007 is going to be an exciting time to be in Gardner! This celebration—the Festival on the Trails—is to commemorate Gardner's 150th Birthday. The weekend includes an art fair, local entertainment, jazz lunch, games for kids and the whole family, pony rides, a Gardner Idol Contest, a wild west show, the World's Largest Tailgate Party, a street dance, historical walking tours, plus much, much more. Food will be available at Chuck Wagon Alley throughout the two day festival. The grand finale is a nationally recognized act that will perform a concert on the main stage behind City Hall, followed by a spectacular fireworks show. 106.5 the Wolf has partnered with the Kansas Lottery and Gardner Sesquicentennial Committee to bring you this nationally known performer. Watch for details on the City's website and local papers to learn more!



An exciting addition to the Festival on the Trails, which you may have heard advertised on the radio is the Great Santa Fe Trail Horse Race (www.sfthorserace.com). This is an 800 mile endurance ride, completed over a 13 day period. The race begins in Santa Fe, New Mexico on September 3, 2007 and will end in Gardner on September 15th. One of the main objectives of the race is to educate the public on the national historic Santa Fe Trail and introduce the sport of endurance riding to thousands. Gardner is a major part of this activity; the teams will be staying overnight in Gardner September 14 and 15, the final days of the race. The Race Village (an overnight stopping point for the ride) which consists of Ride Headquarters, Leader Board, Winner's Circle, food vendors and an entertainment area, will be located on the east side of Moonlight Road, on New Century Air Center property.

Check the City Website at www.gardnerkansas.gov for more information. Be sure to Save the Date!

A Convenient Way to Pay Your Utility Bills

The City of Gardner offers a convenient and quick way to access account history and pay your utility bill online on your schedule, day or night. Customers can obtain billing information by registering their utility account number and using their PIN, a Personal Identification Number they receive from the Finance Department. The City's web page walks you through registration. Registration is only for customers who want access to their account over the computer. This service is free of charge.



Visit the City's website for more information about this service at:

www.gardnerkansas.gov/go/online_payments.php



Fast and Free Energy Saving Tips for Summer

Turn your thermostat up. During warm weather, set your thermostat as high as possible, given health and comfort considerations and drink plenty of fluids. Turn thermostats to 78 degrees when at home; 85 degrees when away. Use fans to circulate cool air.

Close your drapes or shades. Windows are one of the largest sources of heat gain in your home. Although not as effective as exterior shading, keeping your drapes and shades closed during the day helps keep unwanted heat out of your home.

Ventilate when it's cool outside. Cut your cooling costs by opening windows when it's cooler outside than inside. In the morning, close up the house to trap the coolness inside.

Use ceiling fans wisely. Ceiling fans create enough air movement in a room to make it feel cooler by four degrees or more. They use only about as much energy as a 100-watt light bulb. Since you will feel cooler, make sure that you turn up your thermostat to 80 degrees or higher to save on your energy costs.

Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it—this seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25% to your electric bill. Remove the refrigerator door for safety reasons and to prevent mold.

Use appliances efficiently. Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Run your appliances during off peak hours or after the sun goes down. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap after each use. Use the moisture-sensing automatic drying setting on your dryer if you have one. When replacing these appliances, buy Energy Star products. They save up to 30 percent over standard models.

Plug "leaking energy" in electronics. Many new TVs, VCRs, chargers, computer peripherals and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched "off." Although these "standby losses" are only a few watts each, they add up to over 50 watts in a typical home that is consumed all the time.

Operate pool filters and cleaning sweeps efficiently. Look at the operating hours for your swimming pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep (if your pool has one). Shorten the operating time if possible. Switch pool filter and sweeper operations to off-peak hours and ideally during night time hours. Consider replacing pool pumps and motors with updated, more efficient equipment. Savings depend on your use.

Inexpensive Energy Solutions

Install a programmable thermostat. Accidentally leaving the air conditioner on while you are out for the day becomes a thing of the past. Set your programmable thermostat to 85 degrees when you are away during the day, and 80 degrees when you are home. Don't forget to turn the system off when you leave for the weekend.

Replace your air conditioning filters once a month. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the coil in your air conditioner to freeze up significantly increasing energy use. Saving up to 5% of cooling costs.

Keep air conditioner outside unit clear. Air must be able to circulate freely around your air conditioner's outside unit. Keep the area around it clear of weeds and debris. Never build or put anything near the unit that would interfere with the air circulation. If air can't circulate freely around your outside unit, you'll have higher bills and more service calls.

Install compact fluorescent lights. Replace incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star® compact fluorescent light bulbs, especially in the 5 light fixtures you use the most. Compact fluorescent lights use 75% less energy than incandescent lights. If every household converted from incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent lights, each home would save approximately \$130 per year at current electricity prices.

Install low flow showerheads. You'll be surprised how much this simple device can cut your hot water costs.

Wrap your hot water tank with jacket insulation. If your water heater is gas, be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered.

Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip or caulk leaky doors and windows, and cover your outlets.

